



PHILIP L. BROWNING
Director

**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

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October 06, 2015


The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

16 October 6, 2015


PATRICK OZAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**APPROVAL OF INCIDENTAL EXPENSES
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is seeking Board approval for the continued use of Department funding to pay for incidental expenses for community events for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Approve the County of Los Angeles DCFS to use its existing FY 2015-16 Budget to fund this expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 per year.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The primary purpose of these community events is to satisfy the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) for Child Protection. The BRC Final Report has a recommendation dedicated to upholding Transparency and the Relationship with Providers and the Community wherein greater disclosure, clarity, and inclusion should be a routine component of community engagement from planning to review of outcomes and allocation of resources through the re-establishment of community advisory councils that are attached directly to each DCFS Regional Office.

DCFS actually implemented this recommendation made by the BRC in FY 2014-15. This request is consistent with the FY 2014-15 request approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 30, 2014. Approval of the recommended actions will allow DCFS to continue to incur incidental expenses such as food and beverages for training, education, and community engagement efforts

for public and private organizations in the current fiscal year.

The Department continues its efforts in striving to maintain numerous qualified families to provide guidance and care for vulnerable children who are at risk if they remain in their own homes. In order to achieve this goal, DCFS conducts and coordinates community events throughout the county. Another purpose of community engagement events is to disseminate pertinent information which is beneficial to the community to individuals and/or organizations. These community events create an open forum type of environment, where individuals can communicate their suggestions and concerns to the Department. The serving of food and beverages during these community events creates a more inviting atmosphere for families to feel welcome at these gatherings and family members' level of interest and engagement would be sustained throughout the duration of the entire meeting. There are approximately 400 community events planned with thousands of attendees per year. The average expense per event is less than \$100, and on average there are 30 attendees per event.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action is consistent with the Countywide Strategic Plan, Goal #5 Children and Family Well-Being.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Funding is available in DCFS' FY 2015-16 Budget for expenses not to exceed \$35,000.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The estimated expense of \$35,000 exceeds the \$5,000 threshold for incidental expense; therefore, the item must be approved by the Board.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommended action will enable DCFS to support the continued design and delivery of high quality recruitment, training, and support efforts.

Respectfully submitted,



PHILIP L. BROWNING
Director

PLB:CMM
RT:LT:vl

c: Interim Chief Executive Officer
Interim County Counsel
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors